pensive or difficult to provide and there is reasonable time for doing so.

Conversion of Manual Telephone Exchanges into Electronic Exchanges in Maharashtra

*232. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to convert the manual telephone exchanges into electronic exchanges in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) Out of 207 total manual telephone exchanges, 31 are planned for replacement by Electronic Exchanges during 1991-92.

(i) One Electromechanical telephone exchange is already under installation at Parli Vaijanath.

(ii) The remaining 175 Manual Telephone exchanges have been planned for replacement by Electronic Exchanges progressively during 1992—95.

पंजाबी विश्वविद्यालय पटियाला में छापे

*233. श्री राम सरेश यादव : क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) पंजाबी विश्वविद्यालय, पटियाला में गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान पुलिस ने कितने छापे मारे और उनके फलस्वरूप कितने लोगों को गिरफ्तार किया गया;

(ख) गत दो वर्षों में आतंकवादियों द्वारा कितने लोगों की हत्या की गई तथा विरोधस्वरूप विश्वविद्यालय कितनी बार बन्द किया गया; और

(ग) आतंकवाद से निपटने के लिए पुलिस को उक्त विश्वविद्यालय के उपकुलपति से किस सीमा तक सहयोग प्राप्त हुआ ?

गृह मंत्री (श्री एस० बी० चव्हाण) : (क) पंजाब सरकार से प्राप्त सूचना के अनुसार संबद्ध अवधि के दौरान 30 छापे मारे गए और 25 व्यक्तियों को गिरफ्तार किया गया।

(ख) 1-9-89 तथा 31-8-91 के दौरान जिला पटियाला में 172 व्यक्ति मारे गए और दस अवसरों पर विश्वविद्यालय बन्द रहा।

(ग) आवश्यक कारेवाई करने के लिए पुलिस ने समय-समय पर विश्वविद्यालय में प्रवेश किया।

Dialogue with Soviet Leaders

*234. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to hold dialogue at political level with leadership of the Soviet Union if so, by when it is proposed to be done;

(b) whether Government also propose to renew its invitation to the Soviet Foreign Minister to visit India and when the visit is likely to take place; and

(c) what are the immediate problems between the two countries that are likely to be discussed and sorted out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) The tradition of regular political dialogue between India and USSR is well established. Recently Prime Minister and President Gorbachev exchanged messages. Details of further contacts at political level will be decided upon through normal diplomatic channels.

(c) The constitutional changes envisaged in the decisions recently approved by the Congress of People's

Deputies of the USSR may require changes in the mechanisms of cooperation between our two countries.

Electronic Telepone Exchanges in Gujarat

*235. SHRI ANATRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some New Electronic Telephone Exchanges are under construction in Gujarat;

(b) whether the whole district of Kutch is covered and the number of such exchanges proposed to be given to Kutch area and by when the work would be completed; and

(c) wheher 'Mandvi-Kutch' is covered under this scheme as more than 5000 persons of this town are residing in gulf countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHR RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In addition to the 8 existing Electronic Exchanges, 26 out of the remaining 73 exchanges are planned to be converted into Electronic Exchanges during 1991-92 in Kutch district.

(c) Yes, Sir. One electronic exchange of 1000 lines capacity is planned at Mandvi-Kutch during 1991-92.

Cooperation with the Developed countries for the development of a New Technology

*236. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to seek more cooperation with the developed countries particularly with the USA and other European countries in respect of development of new technologies and also for social services; and

(b) what is the response of different countries in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Government welcomes cooperation with developed countries, including USA and European countries for development of new technologies and social services, in accordance with our development priorities. Several programmes of mutual interest have been undertaken with the cooperation of these countries for the development of new technologies, as well as in some areas of social services.

Visit of US envoy to Siachen Glacier

*237. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI:
KUMARI ALIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "US envoy pays a quit visit to Siachen area" appearing in the Sunday Observer dated June 16-22, 1991;

(b) whether the US Envoy actually paid a visit to Siachen area in Ladakh in June, 1991;

(c) if so, whether the visit was arranged by the Union Government and the Ministry of Defence was consulted before permitting the US Embassy plane to land at the I.A.F. base there; and

(d) whether it is the normal parctice to permit foreign diplomats to visit such a vulnerable area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.